

[10 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Slow Relief Work in Orissa

2038. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cyclone relief works in Orissa moved at snail pace as reported in Times of India, dated 11th July, 2000;

(b) whether Government have examined the contents of the White Paper laid in the Orissa State Assembly on 7th July, 2000; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) It is the responsibility of the State Government to undertake necessary relief and rehabilitation measures. No information regarding relief measures progressing at snail's pace has been received by this Ministry.

(b) and (c) The contents of the said White Papers if any, have not been send by the State Government.

Problems of Fisheries in Gujarat

2039. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of MPs and Gujarat Minister of Agriculture met him during May, 2000;

(b) whether they handed over a memorandum regarding Gujarat fisheries problems;

(c) if so, the action taken thereon;

(d) the details of demands accepted and rejected; and

(e) the reasons for rejection of demands, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) A delegation of MPs and Gujarat State Minister of Fisheries had met the then Minister of Agriculture in May, 2000

and handed over a memorandum regarding Gujarat fisheries problems.

(c) to (e) Details of action taken by Government of India on the major issues raised in the memorandum are stated in the statement.

Statement

1. Modernisation of fishing harbours:

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Fishing Harbour Facilities at Major and Minor Ports is under implementation. In order to modernize the facilities and incorporate hygiene and sanitation requirements, a component on repair and renovation has been added. Under this component provision of water-proof flooring, construction of walls for protection in the auction area and augmentation of water supply, etc. can be taken up. Proposals from Government of Gujarat in this respect are yet to be received.

2. Subsidy on Welfare Scheme:

The component on Model fishermen villages have been revised and the cost ceiling has been increased to Rs. 40,000.

The Accident Insurance Component has been modified and the fishermen will now be insured for Rs. 50,000 against death/permanent disability and for Rs. 25,000 against partial disability.

3. Assistance to families of Indian fishermen captured by Pakistan:

A detailed proposal in this regard is yet to be received from the Government of Gujarat.

4. Increase of Kerosene and Diesel quota to Gujarat Fishermen:

The Ministry of Petroleum is of the view that use of Kerosene is primarily for domestic purposes. In view of this, the State Government has to make do with the present allotment, and the quota allotted for fisheries is at the discretion of the State Governments. The Scheme on reimbursement of Central excise duty on HSD oil purchased by mechanized fishing crafts is being revaluated, and revision of the Scheme will depend on the findings of the evaluation study.

5. Nava-Bunder Fish Landing Centre:

The State Government have forwarded a revised proposal with an estimated cost of Rs. 141.32 lakhs for landing centre at a new selected site. The revised proposal received from the State Government is under examination in the Ministry, and a decision on the proposal will be taken shortly.

6. Jakhau Fishing Harbour:

The minor fishing harbour at Jakhau in Kutch district of Gujarat was sanctioned under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme at a cost of Rs. 1,143.60 lakhs in May, 1993 with 100 per cent central assistance as a special case due to strategic location of the site and Government of India have released the full amount. However, the Government of Gujarat have forwarded Revised Cost Estimate amounting to Rs. 3,319.34 lakhs due to time overrun. The State Government have been intimated that the revised cost cannot be sanctioned as the project was sanctioned in 1993 with a condition that cost overruns due to any reason have to be borne by the State Government.

7. Okha Fishing Harbour:

The Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery (CICEF), Bangalore have prepared detailed Techno—Economic Feasibility Report with an estimated cost of Rs. 21.60 crores for development of Okha Fishing Harbour. The cost estimate of the project was based on Schedule of Rates of State Government of 1997-98. The proposal has been examined and the State Government have been requested to prepare cost estimate based on current Schedule of Rates.

8. Capture of fishermen by Pakistan:

A Central Sector Scheme is already under implementation to enhance the communication facilities of Coast Guard with a view to enable them to patrol the Maritime Zones of the country.

9. To subsidise import of GRP technology:

A detailed proposal in this regard is yet to be received from the Government of Gujarat.

10. To subsidise the pilot project on Sea Ranching along Gujarat Coast:

A detailed proposal in this regard is yet to be received from the Government of Gujarat.

11. Terms and conditions of the Model Fishermen Village Scheme:

There is no bar on providing subsidy for construction of houses scattered in a village. However, in such cases, common facilities are not admissible.

12. Fish Farmer Development Agency:

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Development of Freshwater Aquaculture" has since been revised from the year 2000-2001 onwards. The Central Assistance has been increased from 50 per cent to 75 per cent and the unit cost of several items have been revised and certain new components have also been incorporated for accelerated development.

13. Communication System for Fishermen for Disaster Warning:

A detailed proposal in this regard is yet to be received from the Government of Gujarat.

Reduction in Base Rate of Fertilizer

† 2040. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced remarkable reduction in the base rate of fertilizers to be given to the fertilizer companies under the reduction in subsidy on the phosphate and potash; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The base rates of concession announced for the year 2000-01 are lower than the base rates initially announced for 1999-2000. This is so because of increase in the selling prices affected in Budget 2000-01 as well as fall in international price of Di-Ammonium Phosphate and its intermediates.

@Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.